

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-16 and 23-26 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 5, 7, 16, 24 and 25 are amended, and claims 6, 18, 21, 22, 27 and 28 are canceled. No new matter is added.

This Amendment, to the best of Applicants' knowledge, is being filed before a Notice of Allowance. If, for some reason, it is determined that the Amendment is filed after a Notice of Allowance, Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment be considered a Rule 312 Amendment.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representatives by Examiner Saucier in the February 12, 2010 telephone interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

During the telephone interview, Applicants' representative discussed the Examiner's Amendment faxed to Applicants' representative on January 27, 2010 and approved by Applicants' representative on February 8, 2010. Applicants' representative further discussed whether the concurrently submitted claims would be acceptable instead of those previously approved on February 8, 2010.

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that the concurrently herein submitted claim 16 is also acceptable. As the amendments to claim 1 also largely correspond to the amendments to claim 16, Applicants submit that claim 1 is also allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



William P. Berridge
Registration No. 30,024

Steven D. Jinks
Registration No. 62,760

WPB:SDJ/crh

Date: February 12, 2010

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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